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#181
1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZE ISSUE!
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BULLSEYE
VS.
ELEKTRA
ONE WINS.
ONE DIES.

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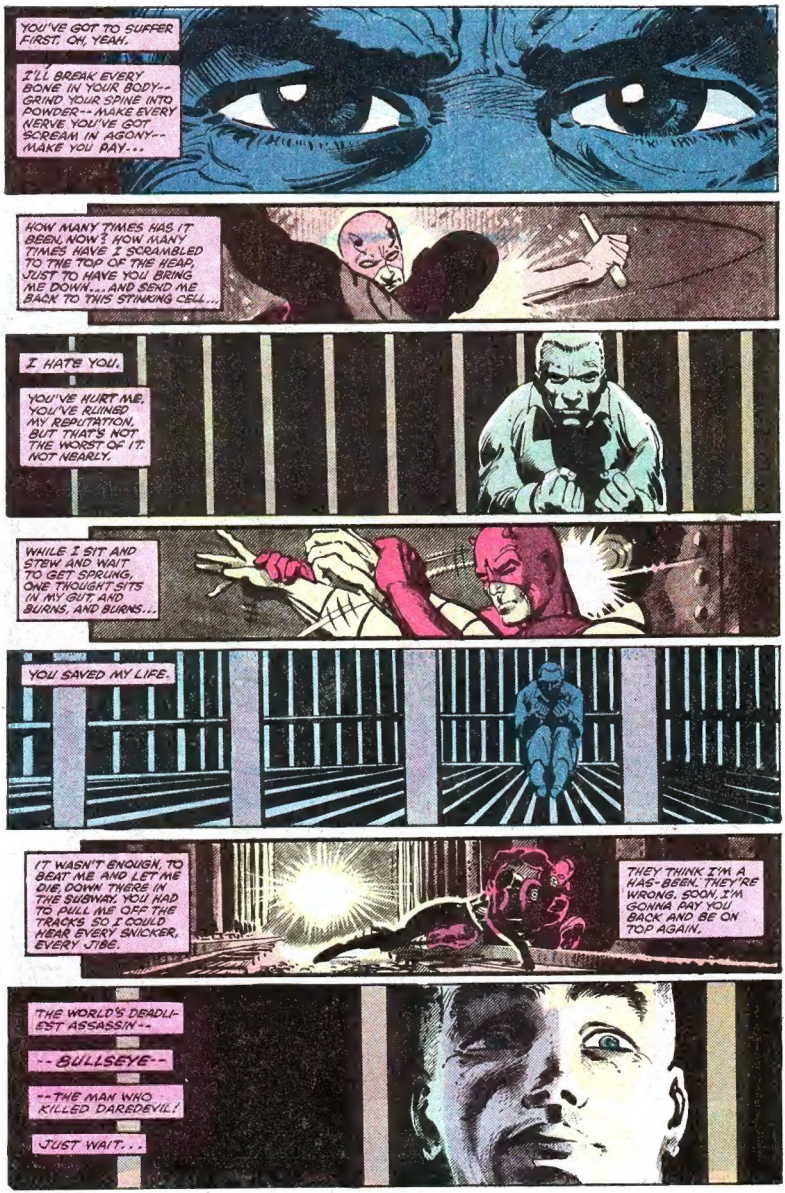
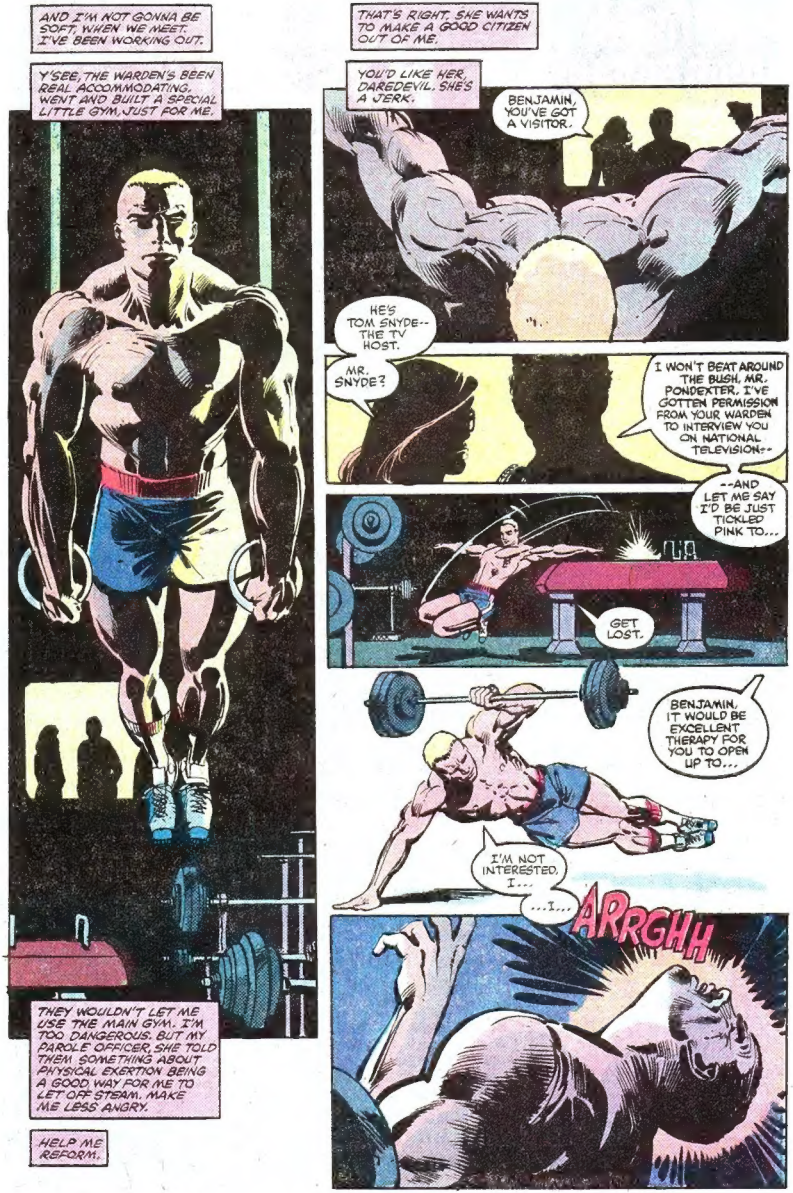
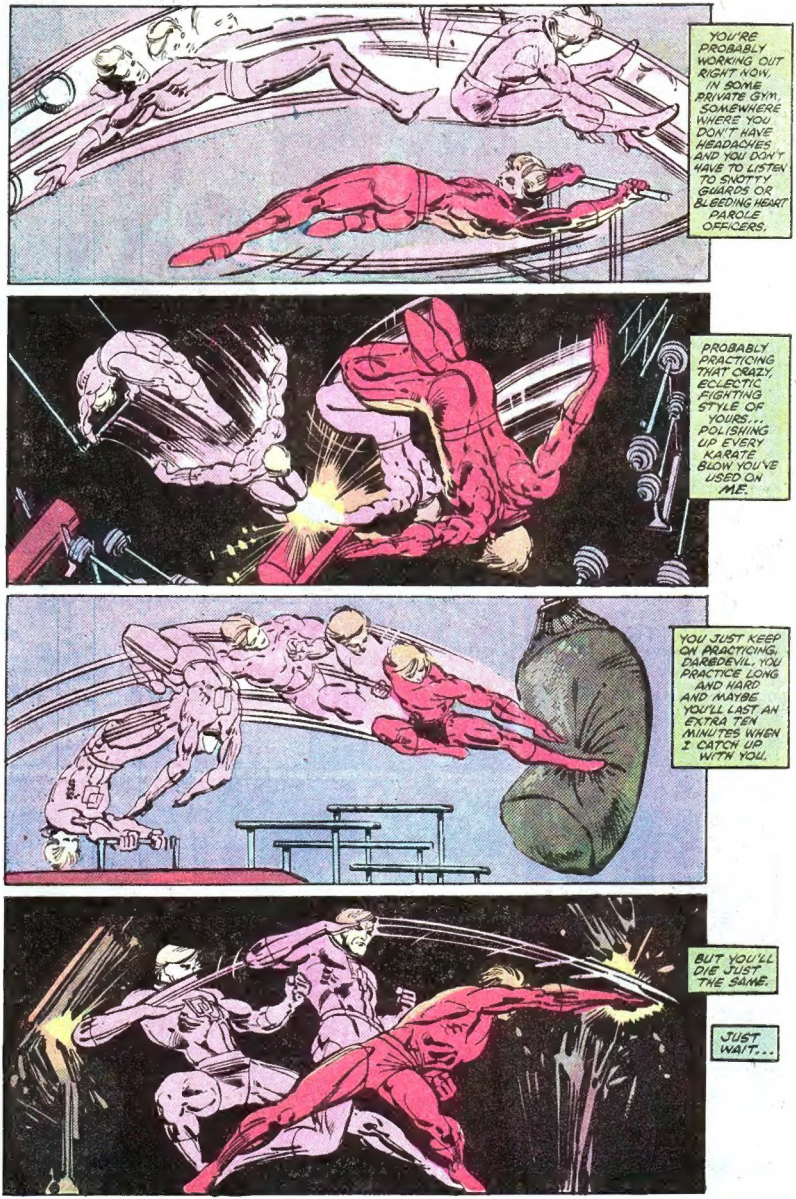

YOU'VE GOT TO SUFFER FIRST. OH, YEAH.
I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY--GRIND YOUR SPINE INTO POWDER--MAKE EVERY NERVE YOU'VE GOT SCREAM IN AGONY--MAKE YOU PAY...
HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN, NOW? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SCRAMBLED TO THE TOP OF THE HEAP, JUST TO HAVE YOU BRING ME DOWN... AND SEND ME BACK TO THIS STINKING CELL...
I HATE YOU.
YOU'VE HURT ME, YOU'VE RUINED MY REPUTATION, BUT THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT. NOT NEARLY.
WHILE I SIT AND STEW AND WAIT TO GET SPRUNG, ONE THOUGHT SITS IN MY GUT AND BURNS, AND BURNS...
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
IT WASN'T ENOUGH, TO BEAT ME AND LET ME DIE, DOWN THERE IN THE SUBWAY. YOU HAD TO PULL ME OFF THE TRACKS SO I COULD HEAR EVERY SNICKER, EVERY JIBE.
THEY THINK I'M A HAS-BEEN. THEY'RE WRONG. SOON, I'M GONNA PAY YOU BACK AND BE ON TOP AGAIN.
THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST ASSASSIN--
--BULLSEYE--
--THE MAN WHO KILLED DAREDEVIL!
JUST WAIT...


AND I'M NOT GONNA BE SOFT, WHEN WE MEET. I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT.
Y'SEE, THE WARDEN'S BEEN REAL ACCOMMODATING. WENT AND BUILT A SPECIAL LITTLE GYM, JUST FOR ME.
THEY WOULDN'T LET ME USE THE MAIN GYM. I'M TOO DANGEROUS. BUT MY PAROLE OFFICER, SHE TOLD THEM SOMETHING ABOUT PHYSICAL EXERTION BEING A GOOD WAY FOR ME TO LET OFF STEAM. MAKE ME LESS ANGRY.
HELP ME REFORM.
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE WANTS TO MAKE A GOOD CITIZEN OUT OF ME.
YOU'D LIKE HER, DAREDEVIL. SHE'S A JERK.
BENJAMIN, YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR.
HE'S TOM SNYDE-- THE TV HOST.
MR. SNYDE?
I WON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, MR. PONDEXTER. I'VE GOTTEN PERMISSION FROM YOUR WARDEN TO INTERVIEW YOU ON NATIONAL TELEVISION--
--AND LET ME SAY I'D BE JUST TICKLED PINK TO...
GET LOST.
BENJAMIN, IT WOULD BE EXCELLENT THERAPY FOR YOU TO OPEN UP TO...
I'M NOT INTERESTED. I...
...I...
ARRGHH

GUARD! GUARD! HE'S HAVING ONE OF HIS HEADACHES!
YEAH, YEAH.
PUT THE CUFFS ON, BULLS.
THEY'RE ON. THEY'RE ON. HURRY.
IT HURTS--
YEAH, YEAH.
SORTA FUNNY, ISN'T IT? MISTER HIGH-AND-MIGHTY-MASTER-ASSASSIN... CRYIN' LIKE A BABY.
MAYBE THEY FIXED THAT BRAIN TUMOR OF YOURS BUT YOU STILL GET HEADACHES--
--WHICH MEANS YOU NEED THESE BULLS. AND OLD HARRY'S THE GUY WHAT'S GOT 'EM.
LASSEE... PUSH THE CAP DOWN, TURN COUNTER-CLOCKWISE...
NO, CLOCKWISE...
THE PILL... GIVE ME...
YEAH, YEAH...
FEEL ALL BETTER NOW?
PEACHY.
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, HARRY.
YEAH, YEAH...
YOU DID THIS TO ME, DAREDEVIL. YOU SHOULD'VE LET ME DIE.
I CAN'T EVEN HAVE A WORKOUT NOW, WITHOUT THESE HEADACHES.
BUT YOU CAN..


YOU'RE PROBABLY WORKING OUT RIGHT NOW, IN SOME PRIVATE GYM, SOMEWHERE WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE HEADACHES AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO SNOTTY GUARDS OR BLEEDING HEART PAROLE OFFICERS.
PROBABLY PRACTICING THAT CRAZY, ECLECTIC FIGHTING STYLE OF YOURS... POLISHING UP EVERY KARATE BLOW YOU'VE USED ON ME.
YOU JUST KEEP ON PRACTICING, DAREDEVIL. YOU PRACTICE LONG AND HARD AND MAYBE YOU'LL LAST AN EXTRA TEN MINUTES WHEN I CATCH UP WITH YOU.
BUT YOU'LL DIE JUST THE SAME.
JUST WAIT...

I GET ONE AFTERNOON A WEEK IN THE YARD FOR SUN AND AIR AND SOCIAL INTERCOURSE. THE SUN AND AIR I GET, BUT THERE'S ENOUGH LEFT OF MY REP TO KEEP THE OTHER CONS AWAY.
SO I'M CURIOUS WHEN ONE STARTS WALKING TOWARD ME.
WOAH, MAN! YOU CRAZY?
THAT'S BULLSEYE. HE'LL KILL YOU SOON AS LOOK AT YOU!
HE'S... HE'S...
HEY...ARE YOU--
--YOU ARE...
I'M GONE.
I RECOGNIZE YOU, YOU'RE THE PUNISHER. YOU'RE IN THE JOINT FOR KILLING GUYS LIKE ME.
THIS YOUR FIRST DAY?
MY THIRD.
YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF ENEMIES HERE, PUNISHER. ONE WEEK--TOPS--AND YOU'LL BE LEAVING. IN A BAG.
COULD BE.
BUT YOU'RE STAYING.
YOU'VE BEEN ON GOOD BEHAVIOR, WAITING FOR YOUR OLD BOSS--THE KINGPIN--TO BREAK YOU OUT.
HE'S NOT GOING TO. WORD ON THE YARD IS THAT HE'S FOUND A NEW ASSASSIN. DOESN'T NEED YOU ANY-MORE.
THAT ROTTEN--
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
CHANCES ARE YOU'LL DO SOME-THING DUMB. GET YOURSELF KILLED.
I'D LIKE THAT.

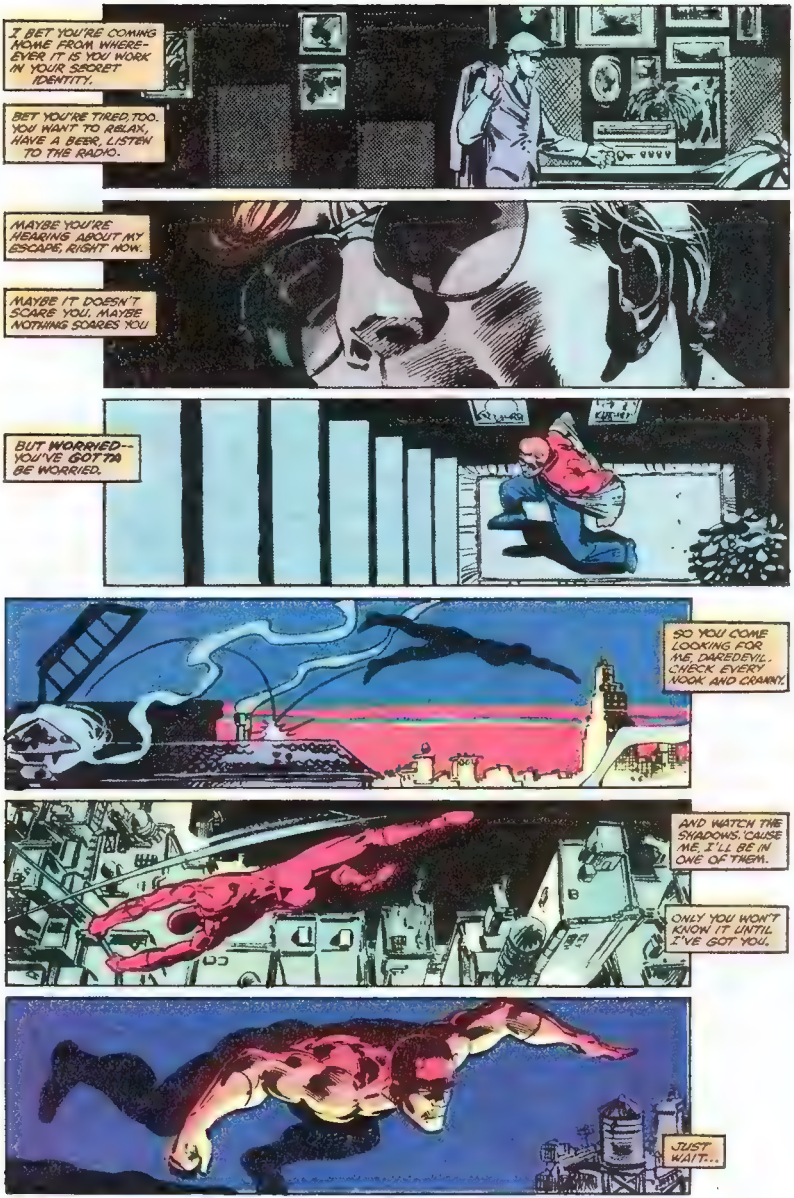
BROADCAST LIVE FROM RYKER'S ISLAND. IT'S A SPECIAL EDITION OF GOOD EVENING, NEW YORK!
TONIGHT, TOM INTERVIEWS ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS IN HUMAN HISTORY...
GOOD EVENING, MR. PONDEXTER. I--
BULLSEYE.
WHAT?
CALL ME BULLSEYE, PONDEXTER'S JUST A NAME I'VE USED, ONE OF MANY.
BULLSEYE.
WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?
I WON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, MR. BULLSEYE. YOU'RE A KILLER--A TOTALLY REPREHENSIBLE FELON WHOSE MONSTROUS CRIMES HAVE CAUSED UNTOLD MISERY.
MM?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?
I DON'T.
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING AT--
AARRGGHH!!!
WHAT THE HECK--?
ANOTHER HEADACHE.
LESSEE... PUSH DOWN ON THE CAP...
HURRY. IT'S WORSE THIS TIME...
YEAH, YEAH...
THANKS--

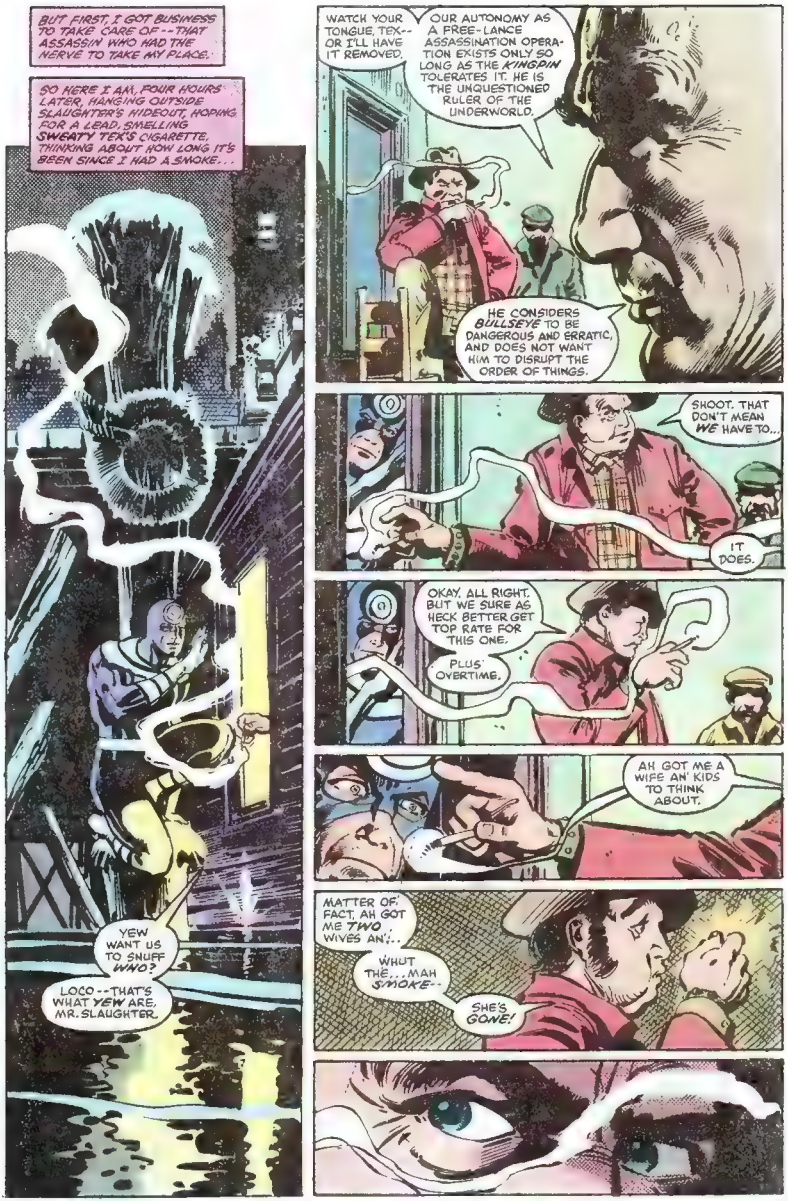
--SUCKER!
OWW!
PTWEE
YOU LOUSY--
THAT'S IT. SHOOT FOR THE GUT--
BLAM
I'M TAKIN' NO CHANCES--
--HIT THE CHAIN--
CHUKK
THE OTHER GUARDS REACT PRETTY QUICKLY. THEY'RE WELL TRAINED.
BLAM
BLAM
BUT TO ME, THEY'RE IN SLOW MOTION.
AND, SNYDE, HE MIGHT AS WELL BE A MANNEQUIN.
I USE THE MIKE.

DROP YOUR GUNS-- OPEN THE DOOR AND GET INSIDE-- OR SNYDE'S A CORPSE!
DO AS HE SAYS.
BLAMM
CHING
YOU BOYS JUST STAY LOCKED IN THE CELL AND I'LL...
SEE, I ALMOST FORGOT.
HARRY.
I MADE YOU A PROMISE, HARRY. REMEMBER?
BULLSEYE-- PLEASE--
DON'T--
BLAMM
YEAH, YEAH...
THAT WAS DUMB. FUN, BUT DUMB.
ONLY TWO BULLETS LEFT IN THE GUN NOW AND NO TIME TO GRAB ANOTHER ONE.
I MAKE IT DOWN AND OUT TO THE YARD.
AROOGA
AROO
AROOGA
FREEZE, BULLSEYE! THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO.

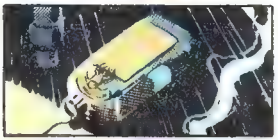
BLAM
KRESSH
BLAM
KRESSHH
TWO BULLETS.
TWO LIGHTS.
NOW WHAT DO I DO?
CAN'T CLIMB THE WALLS...
WHUPP
THAT SOUND--
IT'S ALL OVER BULLSEYE.
LET GO OF SNYDE. DROP THE GUN.
I SAID, DROP THE GUN.

KRAK
BLAM
LOU! LOU!
OH, NO...
GOTTA GET UP, BEFORE--
NO...
EYYAAAAAAA
I'LL TAKE THE COPTER ACROSS THE RIVER TO MANHATTAN, THEN I'LL BE FREE.
FREE TO HUNT.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAREDEVIL?


I BET YOU'RE COMING HOME FROM WHEREEVER IT IS YOU WORK IN YOUR SECRET IDENTITY.
BET YOU'RE TIRED, TOO. YOU WANT TO RELAX, HAVE A BEER, LISTEN TO THE RADIO.
MAYBE YOU'RE HEARING ABOUT MY ESCAPE, RIGHT NOW.
MAYBE IT DOESN'T SCARE YOU. MAYBE NOTHING SCARES YOU
BUT WORRIED-- YOU'VE GOTTA BE WORRIED.
SO YOU COME LOOKING FOR ME, DAREDEVIL. CHECK EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY.
AND WATCH THE SHADOWS, 'CAUSE ME, I'LL BE IN ONE OF THEM.
ONLY YOU WON'T KNOW IT UNTIL I'VE GOT YOU.
JUST WAIT...

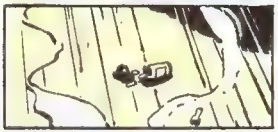

BUT FIRST, I GOT BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF--THAT ASSASSIN WHO HAD THE NERVE TO TAKE MY PLACE.
SO HERE I AM, FOUR HOURS LATER, HANGING OUTSIDE SLAUGHTER'S HIDEOUT, HOPING FOR A LEAD, SMELLING SWEATY TEX'S CIGARETTE, THINKING ABOUT HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I HAD A SMOKE...
YEW WANT US TO SNUFF WHO?
LOCO--THAT'S WHAT YEW ARE, MR. SLAUGHTER.
WATCH YOUR TONGUE, TEX--OR I'LL HAVE IT REMOVED.
OUR AUTONOMY AS A FREE-LANCE ASSASSINATION OPERATION EXISTS ONLY SO LONG AS THE KINGPIN TOLERATES IT. HE IS THE UNQUESTIONED RULER OF THE UNDERWORLD.
HE CONSIDERS BULLSEYE TO BE DANGEROUS AND ERRATIC, AND DOES NOT WANT HIM TO DISRUPT THE ORDER OF THINGS.
SHOOT. THAT DON'T MEAN WE HAVE TO...
IT DOES.
OKAY, ALL RIGHT. BUT WE SURE AS HECK BETTER GET TOP RATE FOR THIS ONE.
PLUS OVERTIME.
AH GOT ME A WIFE AN' KIDS TO THINK ABOUT.
MATTER OF FACT, AH GOT ME TWO WIVES AN'...
WHUT THE...MAH SMOKE--
SHE'S GONE!

HOWDY.
IT'S BULLSEYE!
KILL HIM.
WHOK
FAPP
KUGG
SWAKK
EXCELLENT. I SEE YOU'VE KEPT IN SHAPE.
THE ONE YOU DOUBTLESS SEEK IS A FORMER NINJA-- A WOMAN--NAMED ELEKTRA. THE ONLY LEAD I CAN GIVE YOU IS THAT SHE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ELIMINATE AN ATTORNEY NAMED FRANKLIN NELSON.
CIGAR?

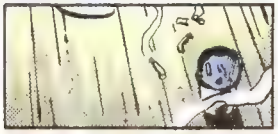


I JUST GOT THE CRAZIEST IDEA.

Y'SEE, I... NO, I OUGHTTA START AT THE BEGINNING...



OLD MAN SLAUGHTER LENDS ME A COUPLE OF HIS BOYS. GUESS HE'S MORE SCARED OF ME THAN THE **KINGPIN**. FOR NOW, ANYWAY.

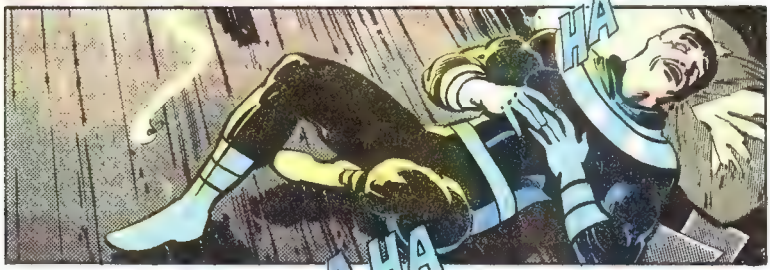


ANYWAY, THE BOYS PUT TOGETHER FILES ON THAT NELSON SHYSTER AND HIS PARTNER **MATT MURDOCK**.

SO I SQUIRREL MYSELF AWAY IN THIS FLEABAG HOTEL TO DO SOME HOMEWORK.

MAYBE IT'S THE BOOZE, OR MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED--

HA HA HA HA



HA HA HA HA HA

-- BUT I'M LOOKING REAL HARD AT THIS PHOTO OF MURDOCK, SEE, AND I START THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH HE LOOKS LIKE **YOU**, DAREDEVIL.

AND I READ ABOUT HOW TIGHT YOU ARE WITH MURDOCK, AND I WONDER IF YOU'RE BOTH THE SAME GUY.

AND THEN I READ-- GET THIS-- THAT MATT MURDOCK IS **BLIND**!

WOULDN'T THAT BE A KICK-- **DAREDEVIL, THE BLIND SUPERHERO!**

LIKE I SAID. CRAZY IDEA.

HOW CRAZY. I REALIZE WHEN I CATCH MURDOCK'S ACT THE NEXT DAY, IN COURT.
I MEAN, YOU AREN'T WHAT I'D CALL A CHATTERBOX Y'KNOW? BUT HIM...
MY CLIENT IS THE VICTIM OF ONE OF THE CRUELEST LIES EVER TO BECOME A COMMON BELIEF IN OUR SOCIETY...
...THAT A HUMAN BEING IS SOMEHOW LESS THAN HUMAN, IF HE IS MANDICAPPED.
SHE WAS A GOOD WIFE, A LOVING MOTHER--WHO SUFFERED A SEVERE STROKE WHICH PARALYZED HER LEGS.
HER HUSBAND LEFT HER--AND TOOK WITH HIM THE TWO CHILDREN WHO GAVE HER LIFE MEANING.
HE'S LIKE YOU IN ONE WAY, DAREDEVIL.
HE'S A SAP.
MY CLIENT HAS DEMONSTRATED TO THIS COURT THAT THERE IS NO MATERNAL DUTY THAT SHE CANNOT PERFORM.
SHE CAN DRIVE HER CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. SHE CAN COOK THEIR FOOD, SHE CAN WASH THEIR CLOTHES AND SHE CAN LOVE THEM.
AND THAT'S ALL SHE WANTS.
MURDOCK'S SPEECH WINS THE CASE.
WHILE THE CROWD'S THICK AROUND THEM--
--I ANGLE UP TO NELSON.
SLAPP
NICE WORK, COUNSELOR.
THANKS!

MURDOCK TAKES OFF IN A HURRY, LIKE HE'S MOONLIGHTING OR SOMETHING.
BUT IT'S HIS PUDGY PARTNER I'M INTERESTED IN. HE'S MY BAIT--FOR ELEKTRA.
"WIRES" SLOBOTKIN DID A NICE JOB WITH THAT BUG I SLAPPED ON NELSON. I CAN HEAR EVERY WORD HE SAYS...
ZIPPITTY DO DA, ZIPPITTY AYY, MY OH MY...
YO! TAXI!
ZIPPITTY DO DA, ZIPPITTY AYY, MY OH MY...
YO! TAXI!
NUTS. I WAS HOPING HED WALK.
I NEED WHEELS.
UH,...FOLLOW THAT CAB.
GET LOST. I'M OFF DUTY.
YOU HEAR ME, JACK? THAT'S O-F-F...
...D-UUUURRGGG!
SHTKK
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY COP SHOWS YOU'VE SEEN IT ON YOU CAN'T TELL IF SOMEBODY IS FOLLOWING YOU UP SIXTH AVENUE. EVERYBODY GOES NORTH ON SIXTH AVENUE.
SO I MOSEY UP RIGHT BEHIND NELSON'S CAB. AND I LISTEN...
GOLLY. NEVER RODE WITH A LADY CAB DRIVER BEFORE.
EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU'RE DRIVING AWFUL FAST...

I HAVE BEEN HIRED TO KILL YOU, MR. NELSON.
IT'S HER, IT'S GOT TO BE. ELEKTRA.
BE SILENT. BE CALM.
YOU WILL FEEL NO PAIN.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT CAN'T!
OH, PLEASE, NO... NO...
WHY? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
PLEASE... PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU...
YES... I DO... I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...

IN COLLEGE..
YOU WERE MATT'S GIRL...
ELEKTRA
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. WHAT ARE YOU...
GET OUT OF HERE.

THW!
OK!
KRIK
CHUDD
KRESSHH
SWTAKK

CRIMINY.
THE LADY IS GOOD!
SLAUGHTER SAID SHE'S BEEN TRAINED AS A NINJA...
SHE'LL PROBABLY USE THE DARKNESS...
SNEAK UP BEHIND ME..
KLUDD
CHAK

AAHHH!
CHUNK
KRAK
THOK
FAPP

KLUDD
PUT UP PRETTY GOOD FIGHT, TOOTS...
...YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD...
BUT ME...
I'M MAGIC.
AND, FOR MY NEXT TRICK--

MATT--

"MATT'S GIRL." THAT'S WHAT NELSON CALLED HER. GUESS IT WAS TRUE.
MORE AND MORE I GET THE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT MURDOCK. MAYBE SOMETHING THAT CAN HELP ME KILL YOU, DAREDEVIL.
KNIFE, MORE THAN LIKELY.
YOU KNEW HER?
CONTUSIONS ON FACE AND BODY...BROKEN JAW...LACERATION OF THROAT... HEART PIERCED BY SOMETHING METAL.
YES. HER NAME WAS ELEKTRA. ELEKTRA NATCHIOS.
HEY--I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE.
I'M NEW.
GOT...UH... MCCAFFREY'S OLD JOB.
THEN IT HAPPENS. MURDOCK JUMPS LIKE A STUCK PIG--
--JUST WHEN HE HEARS ME SPEAK.
LIKE HE RECOGNIZES MY VOICE.

SUDDENLY THAT CRAZY IDEA I GOT ABOUT YOU BEING HIM DOESN'T SEEM SO CRAZY.
MCCAFFREY QUIT?
HE WON'T BE BACK.
TOO BAD. NICE GUY.
MATT...I THINK WE SHOULD BE GOING...
MATT?
MURDOCK TURNS BACK TO THE STIFF. TRIES TO PRETEND HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M HERE.
MAYBE I'M WRONG--MAYBE HE JUST HEARD MY VOICE ON TV AND HE'S SCARED OF ME LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE IS.
MAYBE
NO HARM IN FINDING OUT.
THUNK
THEN I'M RUNNING OUT OF THERE BEFORE YOU CAN TRACK ME--BEFORE YOU CAN MAKE EXCUSES TO PROTECT YOUR PRECIOUS SECRET IDENTITY.
GOT NEWS FOR YOU, MATT'S BOY.
IT'S ELEKTRA.

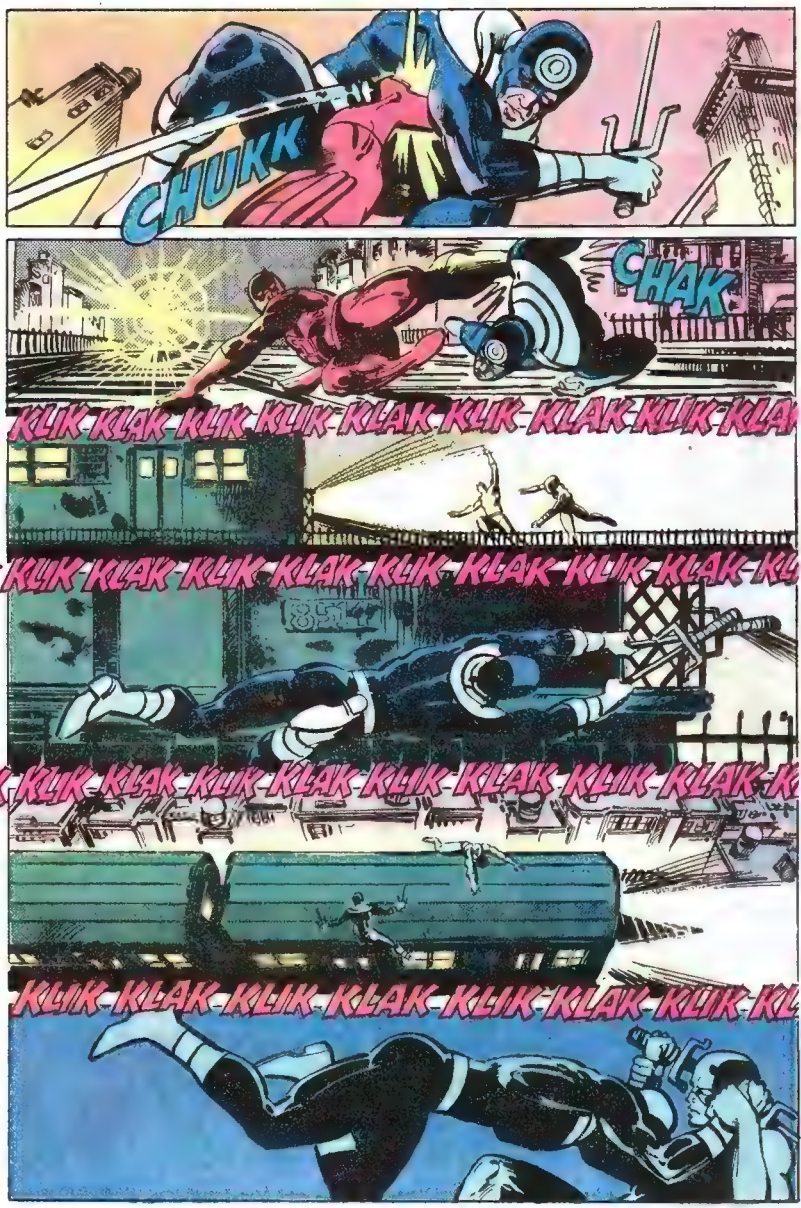
BY THE NEXT EVENING SLAUGHTER'S BOYS HAVE GATHERED INFORMATION FOR ME, PIECE BY PIECE, NONE OF THEM AWARE OF THE WHOLE BEAUTIFUL STORY...
I'M FINE, KINGPIN. FIT AS A FIDDLE.
JUST THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH GRIEF OLD HORNHEAD HAS CAUSED YOU.
DAREDEVIL IS MATT MURDOCK.
THE ATTORNEY? THE BLIND ATTORNEY?
YOU ARE NOT WELL, BULLSEYE.
HEAR ME OUT.
WHEN HE WAS JUST A KID, MURDOCK WAS STRUCK ACROSS THE EYES AND BLINDED BY A RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE, IT WAS ALL IN THE PAPERS.
BUT IT'S THE MEDICAL REPORTS WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING.
THE DOCS NOTICED UNUSUAL BRAIN ACTIVITY--AND HE SEEMED OVERLY SENSITIVE TO SOUND AND SMELL.
THEN THE SYMPTOMS WENT AWAY AND THE DOCS SHRUGGED THEIR SHOULDERS AND SENT HIM HOME.
NOW SUPPOSE--JUST SUPPOSE--HE WAS FAKING HIS RECOVERY. SUPPOSE THAT RADIATION MADE HIM SMELL, TASTE AND HEAR BETTER THAN ANYBODY ON EARTH. SUPPOSE--
YOU CAN STOP NOW.
BUT THERE'S MORE! HIS FATHER--
THAT IS THE MOST PREPOSTEROUS STORY I HAVE EVER HEARD--
--AND A PATHETIC PLOY ON YOUR PART TO CONVINCE ME TO REINSTATE YOU AS MY CHIEF ASSASSIN.
BRING ME DAREDEVIL'S BODY--AND WE WILL DO BUSINESS.
HE HAS COST ME MUCH. ONLY RECENTLY, HE THWARTED AN OPERATION OF TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL. HE STOPPED ME FROM EXPANDING MY CONTROL OVER THE CITY'S GOVERNMENT
HE IS A CANNY OPPONENT. BUT BLIND--?

HEY, I WAS GONNA DO THAT ANYWAY.
IT'S MIDNIGHT WHEN I HIT YOUR BROWNSTONE. NICE JOINT.
...THE FOURTH AMENDMENT CONTEMPLATES A PRIOR JUDICIAL JUDGMENT, NOT THE RISK THAT EXECUTIVE INDISCRETION MAY BE REASONABLY EXERCISED...
THIS JUDICIAL ROLE ACCORDS WITH OUR BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL DOCTRINE...
...THAT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS WILL BEST BE PRESERVED THROUGH A SEPARATION OF POWERS AND DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS AMONG THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES AND LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT...
PRIOR REVIEW BY A NEUTRAL AND DETACHED MAGISTRATE...
...IS THE TIME TESTED MEANS OF EFFECTUATING FOURTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS.
NO

IT CAN'T BE.
I WAS SO SURE--
THWOKK
YOU SET ME UP! THAT'S IT!
SOMEHOW, YOU RIGGED THAT STUNT IN THE MORGUE WITH YOUR BUDDY MURDOCK--SOMEHOW--
--AND LIKE A DUMMY, I FELL FOR IT!
THIS JUDICIAL ROLE ACCORDS WITH OUR BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL DOCTRINE...
SO YOU AREN'T MATT MURDOCK. I'LL STILL GET YOU.
BUT I CAN'T DO IT HERE. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND.
C'MON, DD. FOLLOW ME OUTSIDE.
GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU.
SHH
KRES

COURSE, IT'D MEAN MORE TO YOU IF YOU WERE MURDOCK.
THEN, I'D BE USING YOUR OLD LADY'S WEAPONS--
--AGAINST YOUR BILLY CLUB.
THAPP
KRAK

KKRESSSHH
KKRESSHH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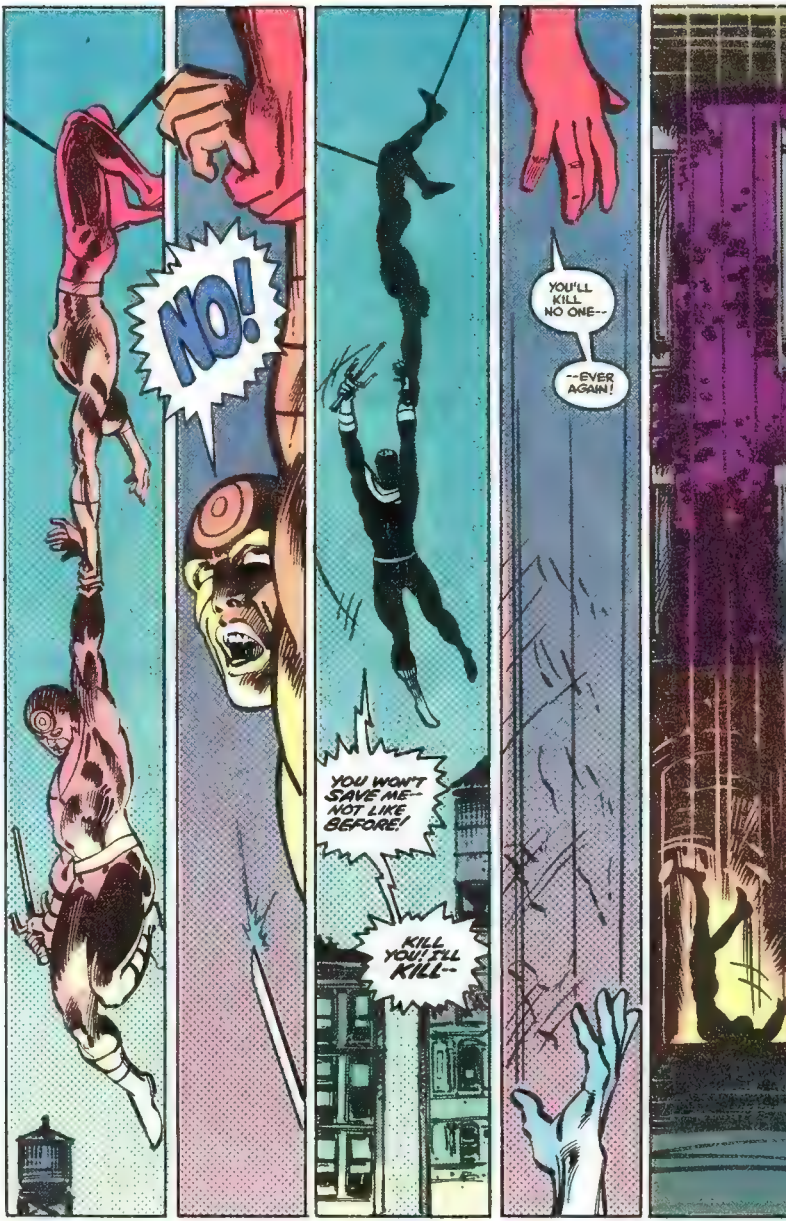
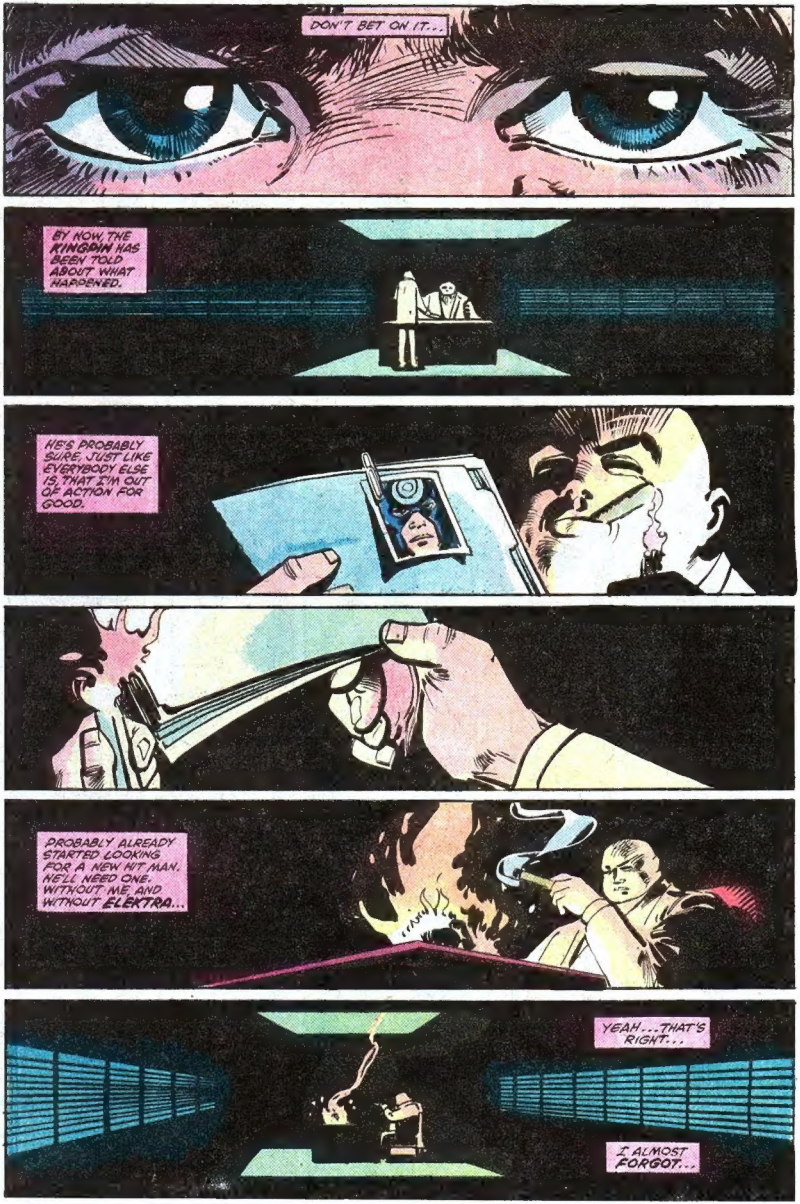
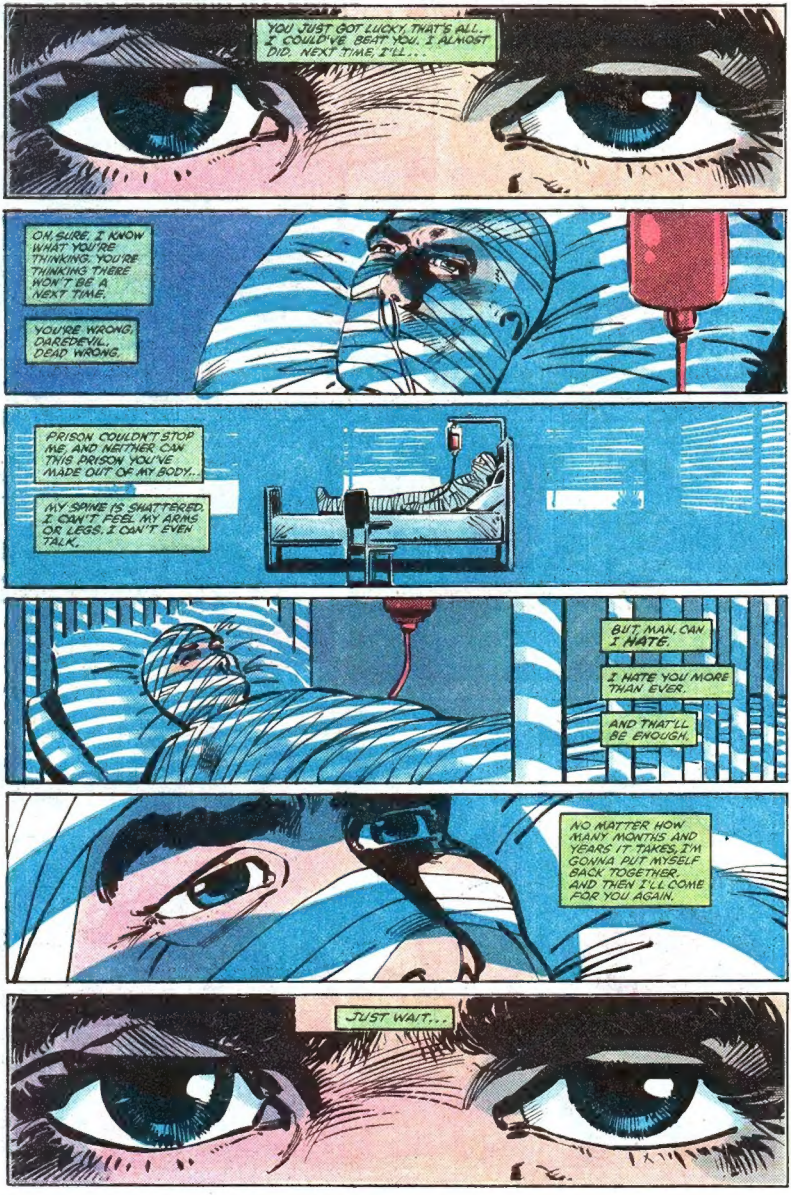

NO!
YOU'LL KILL NO ONE--
--EVER AGAIN!
YOU WON'T SAVE ME-- NOT LIKE BEFORE!
KILL YOU! I'LL KILL--


DON'T BET ON IT...
BY NOW THE KINGPIN HAS BEEN TOLD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
HE'S PROBABLY SURE, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE IS, THAT I'M OUT OF ACTION FOR GOOD.
PROBABLY ALREADY STARTED LOOKING FOR A NEW HIT MAN. HE'LL NEED ONE. WITHOUT ME. AND WITHOUT ELEKTRA...
YEAH...THAT'S RIGHT...
I ALMOST FORGOT...

MAYBE I DIDN'T GET YOU THIS TIME, DAREDEVIL. BUT I GOT HER, DIDN'T I? I GOT HER GOOD.
I WISH THAT HURT YOU. I WISH SHE'D BEEN YOURS, SO THAT YOU'D SPEND LONG, LONELY NIGHTS STARING AT THE CEILING, THINKING ABOUT HER--
-- BUT YA CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL.
MEANWHILE, THERE'S YOUR BUDDY MURDOCK, WHO HELPED YOU BEAT ME.
HOW DOES ME FEEL?
ELEKTRA


YOU JUST GOT LUCKY, THAT'S ALL. I COULD'VE BEAT YOU. I ALMOST DID. NEXT TIME, I'LL...
OH, SURE, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. YOU'RE THINKING THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME.
YOU'RE WRONG, DAREDEVIL. DEAD WRONG.
PRISON COULDN'T STOP ME, AND NEITHER CAN THIS PRISON YOU'VE MADE OUT OF MY BODY..
MY SPINE IS SHATTERED. I CAN'T FEEL MY ARMS OR LEGS. I CAN'T EVEN TALK.
BUT, MAN, CAN I HATE.
I HATE YOU MORE THAN EVER.
AND THAT'LL BE ENOUGH.
NO MATTER HOW MANY MONTHS AND YEARS IT TAKES, I'M GONNA PUT MYSELF BACK TOGETHER, AND THEN I'LL COME FOR YOU AGAIN.
JUST WAIT...

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Friends,

After seeing *Evita* last week, musing over it in a haze of Argentinian history and overwhelming music, I reflected that what made it so great was not just the wonderful score, or the lyrics, or the lighting, or the choreography, or the acting. No. The quality was achieved because, beyond all that, lay the exquisite use of darkness and silence. Rembrandt and ee cummings, and what is essential being invisible to the eye ... Remembering these, I decided that the unseen and the unheard determine the essential character of a work, and its worth.

Creativity is odd.

After reading DAREDEVIL #177 and loving every minute, I looked back at the shadows and the pauses between pieces of dialogue, and enjoyed it even more. What would Matt have said, in his last panel, as wonderful as his silence? Even Elektra's non-appearance was as dramatic, in the end, as her striking presence.

If the drawings and the choice of words were any less good, it wouldn't work. But it does, and the thing that proves Daredevil's quality these days is the timing and the motion and the power that lie between the panels and in the shadows — the darkness.

And the silences.

Elizabeth Holden
120 Lewis St., Apt. 2
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA

Daredevil's Advocates,

There are not many heroes in the Marvel Universe who could exist in the real world, though there are a few. Iron Man? Sure. Any Joe or John could build himself a solar powered, steel mesh armor if he had the technology. Captain America? No question abut it, if you forget that he was around in World War II. Moon Knight? Possibly, but his supernatural origins prevent him from being like you, me, or the guy who owns the delicatessen down the road. Shang-Chi, Ka-Zar, and T'Challa could all be non-fictional without losing a lot of their charm.

But perhaps the one hero whose world, actions and abilities are most like our own is Daredevil. DD is surrounded by the most genuinely legitimate environment in comics. The scarlet swashbuckler encounters kingpins of crime, uncovers crooked politicians, battles past lovers and newfound friends. Frank Miller portrays this all so authentically that I sometimes think I'm watching the 11 o'clock news instead of reading the latest issue of DAREDEVIL. Even Matthew's radar sense has been dulled so that it has become almost believable.

Miller and O'Neil have been gradually steering DD toward a new, challenging direction, while simultaneously keeping his thoughts and feeling consistent with all the issues that have come before. Never has a creative team altered the face of a magazine and still remained faithful to the legend. Never, that is, until now. DAREDEVIL has evolved into a new kind of excitement. Thank you for treating so perfectly the character Stan Lee and Bill Everett created so long ago.

Stu Krull
28 Kettle Creek Rd
Freehold, NJ 17728

Hi Guys:

I'm back with yet another praise-filled missive for this most improved of magazines. The more I see of this lovely plot involving DD, Elektra, the Kingpin, et al, the more impressed I am with Frank Miller's art, writing and plotting. And Janson remains the only really excellent inker for this mag as currently conceived.

Power Man and Iron Fist are a great team and fit in well with DD's style. In various ways, they complement the abilities of my favorite blind man. I particularly enjoyed the DD/Iron Fist scuffle (what scuffle? They never laid a glove on each other. Impressive!)

Keep this up and I may forget how to write nasty letters.

Sheldon A. Wiebe
8535 47 Ave. NW
Calgary, Alberta, CANADA

Be sure to check out what's happpening in POWER MAN AND IRON FIST's own magazine Sheldon. It's ... wait a minute... *Sheldon*?! Is that *YOU*??

Naw...

Dear Mr. Miller:

Here are my thoughts on Daredevil vs. Elektra. DD is, without a single doubt, a hero. The dictionary tells us that a hero is "any man admired for his courage, nobility, or exploits", and " any person regarded as an ideal or model". Daredevil is symbolic of many ideals. He routinely performs heroic deeds, risking personal injury, not to mention his life, for the sake of helping his fellow man. Experience has shown us that, more often than not, these courageous deeds are not even appreciated. This does not stop our hero, however. No matter what the odds, no matter how much pain it will cost him, if it is right, if it helps someone less fortunate, he will come through.

Matt Murdock, the lawyer, may be less flamboyant, but he is no less a hero than his alter-ego. He, too, helps others without any thought of self-gain. He is admirable.

This brings us to Elektra, the mercenary, the killer. Referring to the dictionary again, we find, "work done for payment only ... venality, corruption". Elektra is the perfect antithesis of Daredevil. He is merciful. She is merciless. He is compassionate. She is ruthless. He has social consciousness. She scorns the law. Total opposites. He is good. She is bad. We love him. We hate her. Right? Wrong! Dead wrong!

I don't understand my own feelings about what she is and how she lives. I cannot condone brutal murder, yet I cannot hate or dislike her. In fact, there are many things about Elektra that I admire: her strength, her courage, the discipline and skill she possesses are a few.

My feelings about Elektra's actions may be ambivalent, but my thoughts about her staying in this book for a long time are very concrete. The romantic in me cannot help but pray you find a way to link Elektra and Matt together. I'm really a sap for the tragic love story. Love lost is a real threat we all face, but love lost and then regained is the sweetest of realities. The realist in me understands that as long as these two are true to themselves, they can never be together again.

Ambivalent feelings aside, please do not change Elektra's character. If she stopped being a killer, she would be killed. She has too many enemies, for her to become soft. I dread next month and the confrontation between Elektra and Daredevil. I hope you possess enough skill as a writer to handle the confrontation between them without compromising their characters.

I love your writing and drawing to date. The changes you've made in DD's character are, at the very least, fascinating.

Teresa Conway
2017 3rd. St. 2E
Moultrie, Ga. 31768

We dedicate this issue to the memory of
WALLACE WOOD
1927-1981

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Ed Shukin— Business Manager

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(signed) Ed Shukin— Business Manager